

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 3-29, 31-57 and 59-124 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 3, 30 and 58 are canceled and Claims 1, 28, 56, and 119-121 are amended.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that Claims 86-118 and Claims 122-124 are allowed and that Claims 3, 22-24, 30-47, 49-51, 58-75, 77-79 and 85 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 2, 21, 26, 28, 29, 48, 53, 55-57, 76, 81, 83, 84 and 119-121 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over USP 6,091,916 to Dycher and Claims 25, 27, 52, 54, 80 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Dycher in view of USP 4,708,455 to Kubota et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1, 28, 56 and 119-121 are amended to incorporate subject matter indicated as being allowable. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

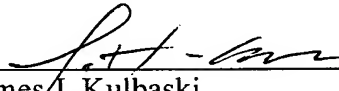
Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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